



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

**Testimony of Jesmin K. Basanti
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Before the Committee on Commerce
Hartford, Connecticut
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Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and other members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Jesmin Basanti, Staff Attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry and the vast majority of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

CBIA has always supported measures that promote economic development and awareness of our business climate in Connecticut. For these reasons we support the following bills:

- **S.B. 22 An Act Concerning Small Business Assistance**
- **S.B. 455 An Act Concerning the Connecticut Sports and Marketing Corporation**
- **H.B. 5498 An Act Concerning Micro Businesses**
- **H.B. 5500 An Act Concerning the Office of Small Business Affairs and Establishing the Small Business Advisory Board**

It is unyieldingly important to develop a good business climate, within which private sector activity actually flourishes. This leads to entrepreneurial potential being realized, efficient contracting, higher productivity, job creation, and overall economic growth. A bad business climate results not only in the general inability of the state to attract investment and business, but also leads to economic dumping where the state ends up expending valuable resources on overcoming regulatory burdens rather than on productive activities.

Measures like these will not only garner the support of the business community but will reaffirm their belief that state government understands the importance of keeping them viable and in Connecticut.

Furthermore, any measure that state government can take to expand tax incentives to small businesses, offer them assistance with the growth and sustainability of their company, and provide them with a one-stop service center, will not only foster good will but will allow those businesses to expand, to create more jobs for people in this state and help grow our economic base.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of these measures. We look forward to working with the Committee to ensure their passage and I would be happy to answer any questions you have.